

House Study Bill 561 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to terminology changes in education-related
2 Iowa Code references to foreign languages.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 49.13, subsection 6, paragraph a,
2 subparagraph (3), Code 2018, is amended to read as follows:

3 (3) Receive credit in at least four subjects, each of
4 one period or hour, or the equivalent thereof, at all times.
5 The eligible subjects are language arts, social studies,
6 mathematics, science, health, physical education, fine arts,
7 foreign world language, and career and technical education.
8 Coursework taken as a postsecondary enrollment option for
9 which a school district or accredited nonpublic school grants
10 academic credit toward high school graduation shall be used
11 in determining eligibility. A student shall not be denied
12 eligibility if the student's school program deviates from the
13 traditional two-semester school year. Each student wishing
14 to participate under this subsection shall be passing all
15 coursework for which credit is given and shall be making
16 adequate progress toward graduation requirements at the end of
17 each grading period. At the end of a grading period that is the
18 final grading period in a school year, a student who receives
19 a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded is
20 ineligible to participate under this subsection. A student who
21 is eligible at the close of a semester is academically eligible
22 to participate under this subsection until the beginning of
23 the subsequent semester. A student with a disability who
24 has an individualized education program shall not be denied
25 eligibility to participate under this subsection on the basis
26 of scholarship if the student is making adequate progress,
27 as determined by school officials, towards the goals and
28 objectives of the student's individualized education program.

29 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph f, Code
30 2018, is amended to read as follows:

31 f. Four sequential units of one foreign world language other
32 than which may include American sign language. Provision of
33 instruction in American sign language shall be in addition to
34 and not in lieu of provision of instruction in other foreign
35 languages. The department may waive the third and fourth years

1 of the ~~foreign~~ world language requirement on an annual basis
2 upon the request of the board of directors of a school district
3 or the authorities in charge of a nonpublic school if the
4 board or authorities are able to prove that a licensed teacher
5 was employed and assigned a schedule that would have allowed
6 students to enroll in a ~~foreign~~ world language class, the
7 ~~foreign~~ world language class was properly scheduled, students
8 were aware that a ~~foreign~~ world language class was scheduled,
9 and no students enrolled in the class.

10 Sec. 3. Section 280.4, subsection 1, Code 2018, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 1. The medium of instruction in all secular subjects taught
13 in both public and nonpublic schools shall be the English
14 language, except when the use of a ~~foreign~~ world language is
15 deemed appropriate in the teaching of any subject or when the
16 student is limited English proficient. When the student is
17 limited English proficient, both public and nonpublic schools
18 shall provide special instruction, which shall include but
19 need not be limited to either instruction in English as a
20 second language or transitional bilingual instruction until
21 the student is fully English proficient or demonstrates a
22 functional ability to speak, read, write, and understand the
23 English language. As used in [this section](#), "*limited English*
24 *proficient*" means a student's language background is in a
25 language other than English, and the student's proficiency
26 in English is such that the probability of the student's
27 academic success in an English-only classroom is below that
28 of an academically successful peer with an English language
29 background. "*Fully English proficient*" means a student who is
30 able to read, understand, write, and speak the English language
31 and to use English to ask questions, to understand teachers
32 and reading materials, to test ideas, and to challenge what is
33 being asked in the classroom.

34 EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2 This bill replaces references to "foreign language" with the
3 term "world language" when used in Code provisions relating to
4 the appointment of high school students as precinct election
5 board members, to the education standards for the accreditation
6 of schools, and to the medium of instruction when a student
7 is limited English proficient. The bill provides that "world
8 language" may include American sign language and strikes
9 language that prohibits school districts and accredited
10 nonpublic schools from using an American sign language course
11 to meet certain education standards for accreditation purposes.